

News from BatLife Europe

Bat Species of the Year Postcards

The four versions of the “Bat of the Year” postcards have been printed and are ready for distribution - see images on page 2. We have around 10,000 postcards that we can distribute. The postcards are free of charge, **but you will need to pay for postage.**

Action: Please let us know if you would like some postcards, and how many you need, and we will do our best to distribute them fairly. We also ask you to provide us with a postal address where the packages can be reliably delivered!

Noctule Count

Action: This is the last weekend you can take part in the 2024 Noctule Count, which runs to the end of September. Please see the document on page 3 for more information about the count, sent to partners in July. The email address for the count is noctulecount@batlife.de.

BLE Strategy Webinar

Action: The BatLife Europe Trustees have been working hard over the past few months, planning future strategy for the organisation, and are at the stage where they’d like to present the strategy to partners.

We’ve booked the strategy meeting for **3-4pm CEST 2-3pm BST on Monday 7th October**, and we’d like to invite representatives from all our partner organisations to attend. Please register for the session via the link below:

When: Oct 7, 2024 02:00 PM London

Register in advance for this meeting: [Link no longer valid](#)

EBRS

3 of BatLife Europe’s trustees attended the EBRS earlier this month, including Marlot Jonker, who sat on one of the panels. They also held an informal meeting for representatives of BatLife Europe partner organisations.

LIFE funding

We have applied for a LIFE funding grant, to enable us to employ a part-time paid member of staff.

Webinars

Recordings of all previous webinars can be found here <https://www.batlife-europe.info/projects/webinars/>.

Action: We’re beginning to plan for further webinars this autumn / winter. If you have a suggestion for a webinar, and would like to volunteer, please let us know.

Infographics

Thanks again to those who have helped to translate the infographic text for the Greater Mouse-eared infographic. All current versions of the infographic are now available on the BLE website <https://www.batlife-europe.info/publications-resources/>.

Action: We still need translations in Italian, Greek, Romanian, Czech, Slovak, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Polish and Ukrainian. If you are able to help with this, please let us know.

News from Partners or other Contributors

Post your updates here!

Let us know if you have any news, requests etc. you'd like us to promote in our updates.



BoY Postcards – As above, please get in touch if you'd like some 'Bat of the Year' postcards.



Noctule Count 2024

We're pleased to announce that the 2024 Noctule Count will begin on Thursday 1st August, and will run until Monday 30th September.

For more information on the project and how to download and use the Epicollect app, please visit our website www.batlife-europe.info/projects/noctule-count

Updates for the 2024 Count

- **Counting period:** We've extended the counting period this year, widening the range of counts from August 1st to September 30th. With this extended period, participants will be able to count at the times with highest activity in their area - supposed to start earlier in the eastern parts until the common noctules reach western Europe - enabling counters within the whole distribution range of common noctules to more easily take part. If you are unsure on your best local period, it would be wise to contact your regional partners or ask our noctule team.
- **Counting events:** Ideally, we would like to encourage all participants to count 3 times at one spot during the counting period. Single night counts and random finds are also welcomed. Partners could use the opportunity to organise group count events, perhaps on International Bat Night.
- **Participant IDs:** This year, we would like to ask for a little more data about the person or persons completing the count, to enable us to link the delivered data to those who completed a count on a unique identifier. With this ID, it will be possible to link data from several events and years to one person / place. To do so, it would be nice if you could register via email noctulecount@batlife.de with the following data:
 - Your ID used in the app (e.g. Batcounter1234),
 - name (e.g. Jon Doe),
 - region / country (e.g. Bavaria/Germany)
 - and of course, an email address.

This data will be processed in Germany and only will be used for the project's organisation. If you'd rather not include your name, please leave it out of the email.

- **Data availability:** All data collected within the project can be used by the participants for non-commercial uses. If you are interested in the raw data at any point after the counting period, just send a short email to the address above.
- **Use of bat detectors:** We strongly suggest using a bat detector while counting, to be sure you have spotted common noctules. Please note in the app whether you used a bat detector to identify the species.
- **Epicollect App:** Please use the app to send in your data. If you encounter any problems, or if you miss any details to be delivered by the app, just send a note to us via noctulecount@batlife.de.
- **Pics or it didn't happen:** We would love to receive pictures of your counting activities to share with others. If you're happy for us to use them on social media or on our website, please send them to batlifeeurope@bats.org.uk.
- **Sharing and social media:** We would be grateful if you could share the information about the count with your colleagues and contacts. If you create any social media posts connected to the project, it would be nice if you could use the hashtag #noctulecount. Thanks.